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Enhancement in the seigniorage value of unreserved trees.

* 271 Q.—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have enhanced the seigniorage value of unreserved trees in the State;

(b) if so, by how many times; and

(c) whether the enhanced rate is being given effect to for offences committed before the date of this order?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir. The Government enhanced the seigniorage value of unreserved trees in the State in 1951.

" (b) The increase was 200 per cent over the rates then existing.

" (c) No, Sir."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, I know that there are thousands of cases where the enhanced rate of seigniorage value has been collected for offences committed before the enhancement order was issued. Is it not a fact, Sir, that for offences committed before the issue of this order, enhanced seigniorage value has been collected ? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I do not think that retrospective effect was given to this order and there are no cases where enhanced seigniorage value has been collected with retrospective effect. Perhaps the cases which are mentioned by the hon. Member refer to those offences which occurred after the issue of the order and before the date of the notification."

* 272 Q.—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, this question may be taken up to-morrow."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Yes. It will be taken up to-morrow."

" Harijan Day " celebrations through A.I.R.

* 273 Q.—Sri A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any of the Government authorities connected with the Harijan Welfare Department are broadcasting in the All-India Radio on the 30th of each month celebrating the Harijan Day; and

(b) how many times in 1953 the Minister for Animal Husbandry and the Director of Harijan Welfare broadcast in the All-India Radio regarding the Harijan Uplift and the activities of the State Government towards Harijan Welfare?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) No. All-India Radio have, however, been requested by the Government of Madras to include in the programmes on the 30th of each month broadcasts about Harijan Welfare Work and efforts of the Madras Government in this direction.

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" (*b*) In the year 1953 a series of five talks in English and regional languages on Harijan Welfare Work was broadcast. The English talk was broadcast by the Director of Harijan Welfare and the talks in the regional languages by other officers. The Minister for Animal Husbandry did not broadcast any talk in 1953 on the subject."

Opening of a Local Fund Hospital at Pazhayangadi.

* 274 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a memorandum, dated 10th September 1953 from Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A., requesting the Government to open a Local Fund Hospital at Pazhayangadi; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) A copy of the memorandum has been communicated to the Special Officer, Malabar District Board, for necessary action. The Member has already been informed on 30th September 1953 that it is the primary responsibility of the District Board concerned to provide medical facilities in the rural areas and that therefore the Malabar District Board was being asked to take necessary action in the matter."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the Malabar District Board has stated that no funds are available with them, will the Government be pleased to sanction a grant to the District Board to enable them to open a dispensary at this place? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the District Board may retrench in some other directions and find the money for this purpose."

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, since the Government are well aware of the monetary position, namely, the bankrupt condition of the Malabar District Board, is it one of the devices adopted to bury this scheme that the demand for a hospital has been referred to the District Board? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, the Government are showing special consideration to the Malabar district in several matters."

Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, just as the Government have accepted responsibility for the highways realising that the District Boards have no funds to maintain them, will the Government also take away the responsibility for maintaining Public Health also from the District Board or provide them funds? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, there is no such proposal at present."